

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-14 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

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APPROVED BY THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

EUR- JGLOWENSTEIN

S/S - WLUERS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY

USINT ALGIERS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 175357

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SP

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR ALBA'S VISIT TO DEPARTMENT.

1 DEPUTY SECRETARY INGERSOLL RECEIVED SPANISH  
AMBASSADOR ALBA AT 08:45, AUGUST 10, IN PRESENCE  
DEPUTY ASST. SEC.LOWENSTEIN AND IBERIAN DIRECTOR LUKENS.

2DEPSEC TOLD ALBA THAT PRESIDENT FORD HAS EXPRESSED  
HIS FULL CONFIDENCE IN THE DIRECTION OF US FOREIGN  
POLICY AND ALSO FELT SO STRONGLY ABOUT NEED FOR  
CONTINUITY THAT, EVEN BEFORE ASSUMING OFFICE, HE HAD  
ASKED SECRETARY KISSINGER TO REMAIN. DEPSEC SAID THAT  
USG WOULD PURSUE BI-PARTISAN FOREIGN POLICY AND  
THAT BOTH PARTIES IN BOTH HOUSES OF CONGRESS HAD EXPRESSED  
THEIR CONFIDENCE IN PRESIDENT FORD.

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3DEPSEC THEN SAID THAT CONTINUITY WOULD APPLY TO US RE-

LATIONS WITH SPAIN, WE WISHED BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS IN SEPTEMBER FOR RENEWAL OF AGREEMENT OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION WHICH CAN NOW BE CARRIED OUT WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF THE JOINT DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES, AND NEW CREDENTIALS CEREMONY WOULD BE WORKED OUT AS SOON AS PRESIDENT HAS TIME BUT THAT IN MEANTIME USG WOULD CONSIDER THAT ALBA ENTIRELY AUTHORIZED TO REPRESENT HIS COUNTRY IN WASHINGTON.

4.DEPSEC THEN BROUGHT UP QUESTION OF SPANISH SAHARA AND TOLD ALBA THAT USG HOPED THAT SPAIN AND MOROCCO COULD SETTLE THE PROBLEM AMICABLY IN MUTUAL INTEREST OF BOTH PARTIES. DEPSEC THEN REFERRED TO HIS RECENT MEETING WITH MOROCCAN FOREIGN MINISTER LARAKI AND POINTED OUT THAT BOTH HE AND SECRETARY HAD SPOKEN TO LARAKI ALONG SAME LINES. FINALLY, DEPSEC SAID THAT HE FELT ENCOURAGED BY WORD WE HAD RECEIVED THAT MOROCCANS WERE SOON TO GO TO MADRID TO DISCUSS MATTER.

5.IN HIS REPLY ALBA SAID THAT LARAKI WOULD BE IN MADRID IN FEW DAYS AND THAT GOS WAS WAITING TO SEE WHAT HE WOULD SAY. ALBA ADDED THAT HE HAD RECEIVED LONG CABLE FROM MADRID GIVING SPANISH POSITION WHICH HE WOULD SEND TO DEPARTMENT IN FEW DAYS UNDER COVER OF NOTE-VERBALE.

6.ALBA WENT ON TO DESCRIBE HISTORY OF SPANISH-MOROCCAN RELATIONSHIP CONCERNING SAHARA, STRESSING THAT PROBLEM HAD BEEN ON LOW BURNER FOR MANY YEARS UNTIL KING HASSAN HIMSELF BEGAN TO STIR IT UP DURING PAST YEAR AND HALF. ALBA SAID THAT SPAIN COULD NOT UNDERSTAND HASSAN'S RECENT QUIXOTIC BEHAVIOR AND THOUGHT PERHAPS IT COULD BE ATTRIBUTED TO LIBYAN INFLUENCE. IN ANY CASE, ALBA SAID THAT GOS WAS PREPARED TO FOLLOW THE UN RESOLUTIONS AND WOULD BE PREPARING FOR REFERENDUM ON SELF-GOVERNMENT. HE SAID THAT GOS READY FOR UN CONTROL OF SAHARA AND THAT EVERYTHING WOULD BE DONE IN DUE COURSE WHEN TIME WAS RIPE -- AND NOT JUST IN RESPONSE TO MOROCCAN SABER-RATTLING.

7.ALBA STRESSED DANGER TO CITIZENS OF SAHARA WHO MIGHT BE  
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MASSACRED IF MOROCCO WERE GIVEN SAHARA OUTRIGHT. HE SAID THAT MOROCCAN ANNEXATION OF SAHARA WOULD BE COMPLETELY CONTRARY TO UN RESOLUTION.

8.ALBA NOTED THAT LARAKI HAD GIVEN DINNER IN NY FOR ALL UNSC MEMBERS EXCEPT MAURITANIA. GIRM HAD REACTED QUICKLY, PUBLISHING NOTE STATING THAT MAURITANIA WOULD REJECT ANY SOLUTION WHICH DID NOT PROVIDE FOR SELF-DETERMINATION

OF SAHARAN PEOPLES. ALBA WENT ON TO SAY THAT ALGERIA  
WAS ALSO SO OPPOSED TO ANY TYPE OF SOLUTION WHICH  
WOULD RESULT IN HANDING OVER OF SAHARA TO MOROCCANS.

9.FINALLY, ALBA NOTED THAT LARAKI'S STATEMENTS FOLLOWING  
MEETING WITH SEC. AND DEPSEC HAD BEEN MORE MODERATE.  
ALBA SHOWED DEPSEC STATEMENT BY LARAKI QUOTED IN RABAT  
NEWSPAPER "L'OPINION" IN WHICH HE ALLEGEDLY SAID THERE  
WERE ENOUGH HOT SPOTS IN THE WORLD NOW, AND WE SHOULD NOT  
ADD ONE MORE.

10. DEPSEC STRESSED THAT USG ENCOURAGED BY FACT THAT  
MADRID MEETING WILL SOON TAKE PLACE BETWEEN TWO PARTIES.  
HE HOPED ALSO THAT SPANISH WOULD BE ABLE TO GET  
MOROCCANS TO COOL DOWN AND TO NEGOTIATE IN CONSTRUCTIVE  
MANNER. ALBA EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR DEPSEC'S EFFORTS  
AND PROMISED TO KEEP US ADVISED.

11. INTERVIEW CONCLUDED WITH ALBA STATING THAT HE WOULD  
BE SENDING DEPARTMENT FURTHER INFO ON SAHARA PROBLEM  
AND WOULD KEEP US INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS. KISSINGER

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